

SECURE LARGEST RETURNS FROM ALFALFA



A Nice Bunch of Alfalfa.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

The method of handling the alfalfa field to get the largest returns is one which interests a large number of farmers both growers of alfalfa and prospective growers. Experiments recorded in the United States department bulletin No. 228, "Effect of Frequent Cutting on the Water Requirements of Alfalfa and Its Bearing on Pasture," indicate that the total consumption of water by alfalfa can be controlled to a considerable extent by pasturing or frequent clipping, without serious injury to the plants. Thus by pasturing or clipping the crop its growth can be regulated to accord with the amount of available moisture in the soil.

With a limited amount of stored moisture it is evident the greatest production can be obtained by allowing the crop to grow when the water requirement is the lowest in the spring or fall, and by keeping the leaf surface at a minimum during the summer through clipping or pasturing. The efficiency of reducing the size of the aerial portion of the plant as a means of moisture conservation during periods of drought has often been observed.

Whenever the moisture supply falls short of the amount necessary to produce normal crops throughout the season, summer grazing appears to afford a simple and practical means of obtaining a return from alfalfa commensurate with the available moisture and at the same time reduces the danger of drought injury. When the moisture supply is adequate for continuous crop production throughout the season, it is believed that close pasturing or clipping would result in a marked reduction in the amount of alfalfa produced. Consequently, where grazing is practiced greater production can be secured by intermittent grazing; that is, by employing several fields which are pastured in rotation.

A practice similar to that suggested above has been gradually developed in Australia and gives the best return in the management of Australian alfalfa land. The practice is to grow a hay crop in the early spring and to pasture the alfalfa during the remainder of the year. Aside from the hay obtained, alfalfa is very valuable in Australia for grazing purposes, because it responds to summer rainfall,

while the native grasses, being annuals, afford no late pasturage. On a large ranch near Wagga Wagga, N. S. W., 1,000 acres of Peruvian alfalfa has been handled under this combined system of hay and pasturing. The alfalfa at this ranch carries three sheep per acre during the summer, autumn and winter months. About the first of September (early spring) the sheep are taken off. The alfalfa makes a luxuriant growth during the cool spring months, and a crop of from 1,500 to 2,000 pounds per acre of cured hay is obtained. The hay is produced when the weather is cool and the transportation rate low—in other words, when the crop is making the most efficient use of the water supply. The normal rainfall in this region is about 21 inches and is quite uniformly distributed, each month having more than one inch of rainfall and only two months (June and October, corresponding to our December and April, respectively) more than two inches.

This combined system of hay and pasturing has found much favor in New South Wales, and is carried out in a rolling plains country, where there is no chance of subirrigation, and on loam or sandy loam soils.

SWEET CLOVER FOR PASTURE

Experiments at Iowa Station Show It Is Not as Valuable as Alfalfa—Better Than Red Variety.

Several years' experimenting at the Iowa station indicates that, while sweet clover has much the same value for hogs as red clover, it is not so valuable as alfalfa pasture. When sown early in the spring, sweet clover furnishes a fair quality of pasture the first season.

In fact, Iowa results indicate that it is slightly superior to red clover. The second season, however, the sweet clover tends to become woody, even though a hay crop is taken off.

Sweet clover is worth a trial for hog pasture, but in view of the present high price of seed, and the superiority of alfalfa, we generally advise alfalfa.

Best Soil for Asparagus. Asparagus must be grown in richly-manured soil for rapid growth.

RIGHT MANAGEMENT OF SOW

Important Feature Is to Get Youngsters to Feed as Early as Possible—Provide a "Creep."

(By R. G. WEATHERSTONE.)

An important feature in the successful management of the sow and litter is to get the youngsters to feed as early as possible. This pays in two ways—it saves some of the drag on the sow and it gets the pigs fit to wean earlier, releasing the sow from her maternal duties.

Moreover, when the pigs are removed from the sow, which is generally a fortnight too soon, they are much better fit to do without her milk and also much less liable to the convulsive attacks so common in newly-weaned pigs, whose stomachs are unaccustomed to deal with the coarse food often too plentifully supplied to them.

Indigestion, constipation and "fits" are very intimately connected and all are due to improper feeding.

The best way to teach young pigs to eat is to provide a run or "creep"

into an adjoining pen to which the sow cannot obtain access, or to feed them while she is turned out to get some exercise.

Treatment of Broody Hen.

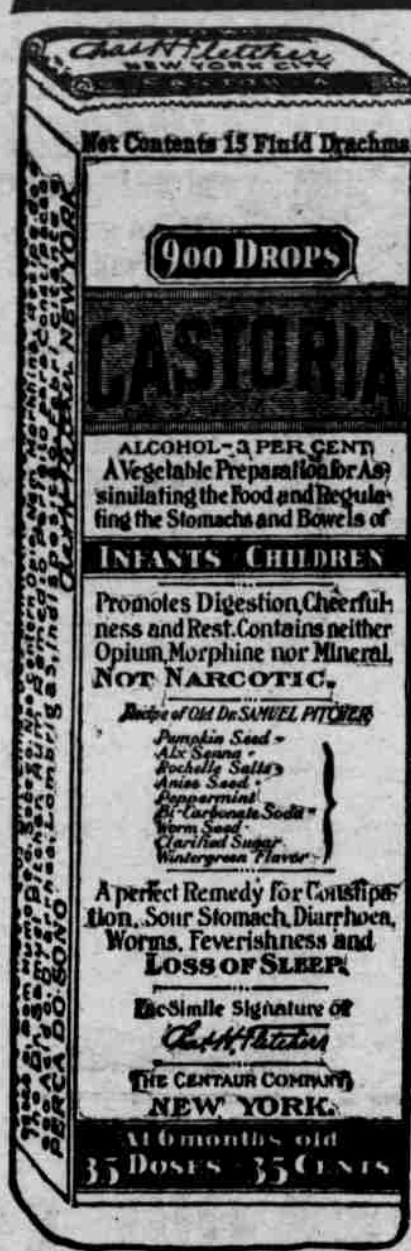
The broody hen may be a nuisance now to those who are through hatching, but that is no reason why she should be cruelly treated. Broodiness is nature's provision for rest. Remove all such hens not needed to a quiet pen by themselves, and they will soon get rid of the fever. Old hens, especially if overfat, become ready victims to the heat. They would be more valuable now for chicken soup.

Proper Pruning.

Grape vines, rose bushes and shrubs generally should have their tops cut back at least one-half. The grape vines newly planted should be cut down so as to leave only three buds.

Injurious to Hens.

There is nothing that produces stiffness, inflammation and unsoundness of the horse faster than standing in a stall day after day.



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Revenge!

Mollie—What are you letting your hair grow so long for? Going to be a musician?

Chollie—No; I've got a grudge against the barber.

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Have ordered Allen's Foot-Ease, the antiseptic powder, for use among the convalescent troops. Shaken into the shoes or dissolved in the foot-bath, Allen's Foot-Ease gives refreshing rest and comfort and prevents the feet getting tired or foot-ache. Try it TODAY. Don't accept any substitute. Sold Everywhere, 25c. For FREE sample, address, Allen S. Olmsted, LeRoy, N. Y.—Adv.

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"What made that stout woman so furious?"

"Just as she was going on the subway train the gateman said 'Both gates, lady.'"

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Marriage is a lottery in which the prize-winners draw alimony.

Poor Father.
"When I was a boy," said the head of the family, "I had to wear my father's old clothes made over."
"That's all right, dad," answered his son. "I've got a couple of old suits you can have."

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A thornless rose would not impress one very deeply.

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A bad back makes a day's work twice as hard. Backache usually comes from weak kidneys, and if headaches, dizziness or urinary disorders are added, don't wait—get help before the kidney disease takes a grip—before dropsy, gravel or Bright's disease sets in. Doan's Kidney Pills have brought new life and new strength to thousands of working men and women. Used and recommended the world over.

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S. B. Gillett, Main St., Carey, Ohio, says: "I couldn't control the kidney secretions and the pain during passage was terrible. My back was weak and painful and I was often confined to bed for several days. I had terrible dizzy spells and was a physical wreck. Since using three boxes of Doan's Kidney Pills I haven't had the least sign of these ailments."

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W. S. Neiberry, Room 82, International Bldg., Columbus, O.

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